

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The Vsetin Armament Factory (P50/043), formerly Vsetin Plant #03 of the Zbrojovka National Corporation in Brno, is now an independent national enterprise, directed by a regional manager, Ing. Konstantin Chrast, a Czech who lives in a detached house near the Vsetin factory district.* The plant manager is Frantisek Kyzlink, also a Czech.
2. The Vsetin Armament Factory, which employs 6,500 persons, is almost completely subordinated to the Ministry of National Defense; the major part of its production is armament and ammunition. A smaller part of the production, under the control of the Ministry of Industry, consists of hydraulic presses, weaving and sewing machines and other similar items.
3. [redacted] the production quotas are sometimes fulfilled to only 50 or 60 percent, primarily because of a shortage of raw materials and parts. The monthly production of heavy machine guns is approximately 200 pieces. The percentage of defective pieces is low. The Ministry of National Defense claims the finished products at the factory. Raw materials are supplied by the Skoda Works in Pilsen and by the Vitkovice Iron Works (P50/058).
4. The plant is equipped with machinery from Zbrojovka Brno and with American cutters (frazy) and grinders of various types.** The Podhajsky firm in Prague and the Kamenicek enterprise in Hostivar (051/188) have also delivered lathes (soustruhy), cutters and round and flat grinders (bruska na kulato a na plocho) to the Vsetin plant.
5. Vsetin has delivered weapons and ammunition to Palestine since 1949 in Czech transport aircraft loaned to Palestine. The plant also delivered weapons to Greek guerrillas.
6. An OZ officer with the rank of lieutenant colonel is permanently attached to the plant, and is often seen on inspection tours accompanied by several other uniformed officers. High-ranking officers of the Ministry of National Defense make frequent inspection tours, particularly when the army is accepting delivery of material.

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7. Although sabotage attempts are prosecuted by the courts, the security section of the plant also has the right to punish workers in many cases. The plant militia, dressed in blue uniforms and armed with rifles and side arms, guard the factory. Special attention is given to the plant departments engaged in ammunition production and storage, which are also guarded at night. Some of the more important areas of the Vsetin plant are also surrounded by barbed wire.
8. The plain-clothes workers' militia, of which there are three platoons, train in the country two afternoons a week. Carrying rifles and side arms they practice defense against paratroop attacks in particular. The platoon commanders are identified by a red button to which is attached a yellow ribbon, worn in the left lapel.
9. The political commissar of the Vsetin plant, believed to be an STB agent, is Michalek, about 35 years old and a devoted functionary of the Communist Party. He supervises all the production departments and appears to have unlimited powers of arrest and detention over all the employees.
10. There is no active resistance among the workers, 40 percent of whom are Communist Party members. Of the members, 60 percent joined the Party after February 1948 out of necessity. Absenteeism is low, probably because of the particularly severe methods for dealing with deviationists.
11. Bohumil Senda has been placed in charge of the new program of broadcasting propaganda throughout the plant, which is done at 10 AM and 2 PM. Senda was a former National Socialist, but is now a convinced Communist.
12. Chairman of the Workers' Council is Jan Cetl, a Czech, about 39 years old, formerly a factory worker and a party member since 1945. The following are some of the members of the Council:
 - Bretislav Kube - Czech, 39 years old, an STB agent and trusted representative of the Youth Movement in the Vsetin plant. He is a Communist.
 - Manak - Czech, 40 years old, Communist. He is in charge of the Council's social section.
 - Trpik - Czech, Communist and former worker, now an office employee. He is a member of the cadre commission.
13. The following is a list of the more important buildings of the armament department of the Vsetin plant; all buildings are still painted with camouflage paint, and no additional air raid precautions have therefore been taken:
 - Bldg. #73 : Two-story building. On the ground floor Tazs textile machines are assembled and shipped. On the second floor model 37 heavy machine guns and various types of mines are assembled.
 - Bldg. #74 : One-story building. Metal polishing and browning (hnedirna kovu) is done in this building.
 - Bldg. #7 : Two-story building. The ground floor serves as the plant repair shop. Parts for model 37 heavy machine gun, aiming devices for the heavy machine gun and hydraulic presses of 60 and 150 tons pressure are produced here. In the remaining area are located offices and the tool and instrument supply rooms. On the second floor machines for ammunition production are assembled. The electric motor repair shop, the tool sharpening shop, the production sample inspection rooms and departmental store-rooms and designing office are also located on the second floor.

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- Bldg. #4 : Two-story building. The first floor is devoted to storage space for the hydraulic presses produced in Building #7. Special drills are manufactured on the second floor.
- Bldg. #3 : One-story building. The tempering shop, chrome plating shop and nickel plating shop are located in this building. The equipment includes spot welders and air compressors.
- Bldg. #2 : Two-story building. Cutters for plant use and micrometer parts are produced on the first floor. On the second floor slide calipers (posuvhemeritko) are manufactured.
- Bldg. #6 : One-story building. Milking machine parts are produced here. There are also the electric welding, carpenter and electric repair shops and the garages for the electric cars for the plant.
- Bldg. #5 : One-story building. In addition to the machine tool repair shop, special tools, such as cutting tools (rezy), dies (formy na lisovani), clamping devices (upinace), cutters, gauges and reamers (vystruznik) are also produced here. There are also storage facilities for the finished products.
- Bldg. #127 : Main storage or supply warehouse.
- Bldg. #8 : Heavy machine gun and component parts production plant.
- Bldg. #9 : Hall for testing production samples of bazooka rockets and weapons.***
- Bldg. #14 and 15 : Plants for the production of rifle, machine gun and sub-machine gun ammunition, 13 mm, 18 mm and 22 mm ammunition.
14. Other new factory buildings, intended for military production, are to be built between 1951 and 1953. Construction had not begun, however, in August 1950.
15. The Vsetin Ammunition Factory has four subsidiary ammunition plants: a plant at Jablunka (P50/033), one at Vlara (P50/T59), which is about 40 km south of Vsetin, a factory at Zamboska and a plant at Rastoka (P50/063).
16. About 15,000 shell caps (rozbusky) per day and an explosive called "asit", which is used in ammunition, are produced by the Zamboska plant. The plant has recently been considerably enlarged and new ammunition filling machines have been installed.
17. The Rastoka plant produces 20,000 caps per day. Shells are also filled in this plant. Most of the employees of both the Zamboska plant and the Rastoka factory are women.

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* [] Comment: Little is yet known about the new post of regional manager. The post, which exists only in the more important national enterprises, replaces the National Enterprise Director. His duties, however, involve more than those of the director. It is believed that the position is a political one, and directives concerning the regional manager's special duties come, not from the general management of the enterprise, but from the General Secretariat of the Communist Party.

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** [] Comment: [] the American cutters and grinders as "so-called Cincinnati", and also to "chamberless machines of American production for grinding all kinds of products and material". [] American hole-grinders (otvorove brusky), presumably drills.

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*** [REDACTED] Comment: To August 1950 the production of bazookas and rockets had not been extensive.

Attachments: I Sketch of Vsetin area
II Sketch of Vsetin Armament Factory, with key.

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